


Carolina Country



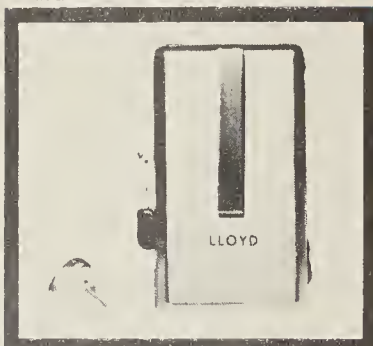
NOVEMBER, 1974



To North Carolina
Rural Electric Readers

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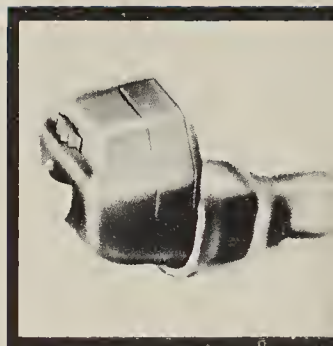
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Vol. 6

No. 11

November 1974

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P.O. Box 1699 Raleigh, N.C. 27602

Your EMC's Magazine

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Official Publication
North Carolina Electric
Membership Corporation

Robert N. Cleveland —
General Manager & Executive Vice President

Is It Time for a Change?

Instead of editorializing this month, I'd like to talk to you about a friend, grocery bills and your magazine.

The friend is Harry B. Caldwell, a man of many honors who has just had another honor conferred upon him. At a breakfast launching North Carolina's observance of National Co-op Month, he was presented the 1974 National Award for Cooperative Statesmanship and Public Service.

To say Harry Caldwell deserved the award is an understatement; he has devoted his life selflessly to the cause of rural people and their institutions. A past Master of the N.C. State Grange, he served until last June 30 as executive vice president of the Cooperative Council of North Carolina. In earning the honor, he won honor for North Carolina and, by proxy, for other Tar Heels who have made cooperatives in our state so vital a force in rural progress.

As for grocery bills, I wish people who write and talk about the high costs of living would recognize there are many better ways to fight inflation than by cutting out meat and economizing on food. Food costs admittedly have to be reckoned with. But we should ask ourselves how much of our "grocery bills" really goes for food.

The shopping carts many of us push through the check-out lines do contain meat and produce but they also contain beverages, toiletries, washing powder, etc., etc., so called food extenders and convenience food. The latter are poor values at any price. Yet we come home from the grocery store and supermarket complaining it's costing a fortune to eat. Are we as conscious of what we're wasting on frivolities, luxuries and other things we could do without — or spending for gasoline?

About your magazine: I think your cooperative would like to know whether you find *Carolina Country* useful and interesting. I know I would. Do you think it should carry more about EMC's, REA, N.C. EMC and the people who run them? Or do you want it to be a general interest magazine? Would you pay to get it if your EMC didn't subscribe to it for you?

I'm getting old and tired. Sometimes I feel *Carolina Country* needs a new editor. So give some thought to *Carolina Country* and let me and your EMC have your frank opinion.

Jim Chaney

Notice: The fact that a product is advertised in this magazine should not be taken as an endorsement. If you find an advertisement misleading, or a product unsatisfactory, notify us. We will notify Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division.

COVER — As everyone who has tried to make one knows, fashioning an arrangement as beautiful as the one on the cover from dried foliage and flowers is an art. It is an art with many devotees throughout North Carolina, and examples of it are proudly displayed at craft fairs, garden club displays and, of course, in many Tar Heel homes. Photo courtesy of *Country Living* magazine, our counterpart in Ohio.

This Month . . .

HOW FUEL CHARGES WORK
T.J.L. REMEMBERS
THE CAROLINA HOMEMAKER
TEEN ROUNDTABLE
HALE!
POET'S CORNER

CAROLINA COUNTRY (formerly THE CAROLINA FARMER) IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY NORTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT RICHMOND, VA., 23219. EDITORIAL OFFICES, SUITE 911, BRANCH BANK BUILDING, RALEIGH, N.C. 27602. POSTMASTER, SEND FORM 3579 TO BOX 1699, RALEIGH, N.C. 27602. EMC GROUP SUBSCRIPTIONS, 75 CENTS A YEAR; INDIVIDUALS \$1. ADDRESS ALL MAIL TO: CAROLINA COUNTRY, BOX 1699, RALEIGH, N.C. 27602.

CAROLINA COUNTRY NOVEMBER, 1974

This message from the manager of your N.C. Electric Membership Corp. will make you as mad as an old wet hen

Your electric bill is going up, even more than it has already, because we can't hold the costs down any longer.

Now we're not any happier about this than you are, but here's the way it is:

As a non-profit electric cooperative, we buy our power wholesale from private companies and pass the savings on to you.

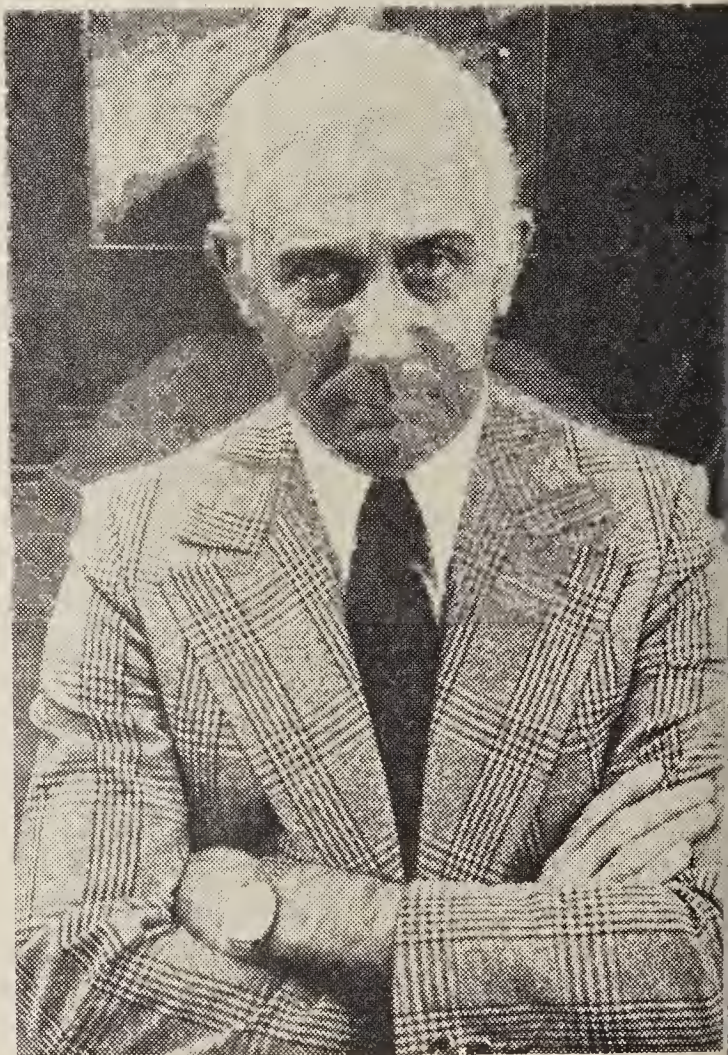
Some of these companies have fuel clauses that allow them to raise their rates as the cost of fossil fuel goes up.

In fact, one of our suppliers has more than quadrupled its fuel adjustment rate since January.

Since we're a locally-owned, non-profit organization, we have been able to absorb many of the rate hikes without passing them on to you.

But with the spiraling cost of labor, materials and wholesale power, we have reached our limit.

Obviously, we are caught in a power squeeze in more ways



Robert Cleveland

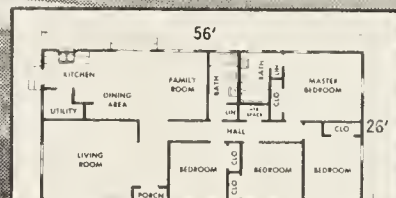
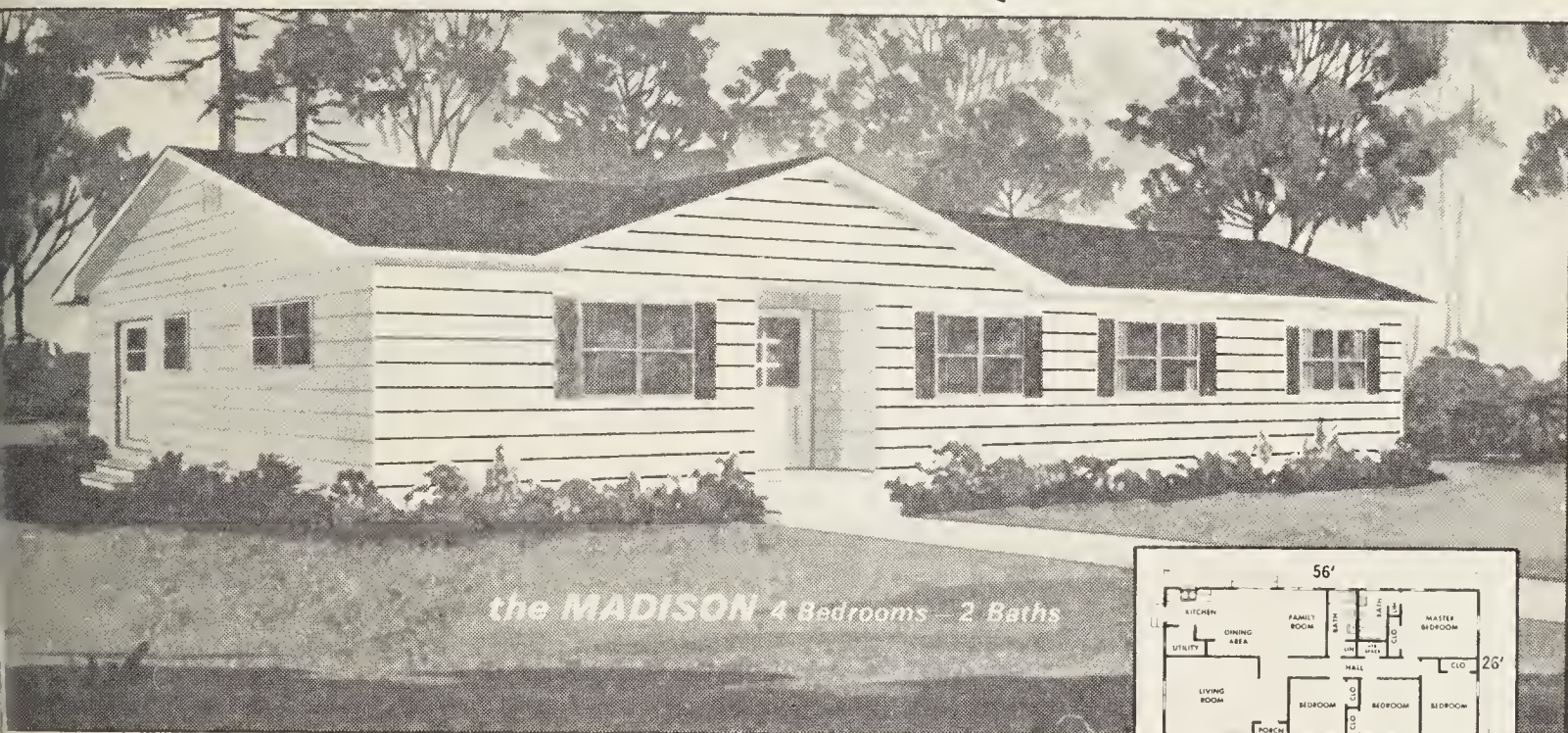
than one.

As the energy crisis becomes more acute, we must all continue to conserve energy.

And your EMC must look for new ways to secure and manage our own source of power for the future, at prices we won't have to squawk about.

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ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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If rural route please give directions _____

I own property in _____ County

Robert N. Cleveland, executive vice president and general manager of North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation, has been active in the rural electric program most of his life. A native of Kentucky, he was named to the board of directors of an electric cooperative in his home state at age 21, and was on the staff of the Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation for eight years. He assumed his present post in October, 1973, after serving four years as General Manager of the Colorado Rural Electric Association. He addresses himself here to the forces which have made the fuel charge a harsh reality to thousands of North Carolina consumers.

The Fuel Charge

- Exactly what is the fuel charge?

It's a charge which most power companies are now applying to the consumer's electric bill each month, based on the cost of the fossil fuel they're using to generate electric power. The actual cost is averaged for each kilowatt of power produced and that cost is passed on directly to those who buy the power, whether they're individuals, municipalities or Electric Membership Corporations. The EMCs in turn, are passing it on to their consumers, using the same cost figure per kilowatt that they are charged.

- Are all North Carolina EMCs now paying a fuel charge?

No. Those cooperatives which receive power from Virginia Electric and Power Company and those receiving power from Duke Power Company have been paying fuel charge for some time now — for about a year. Those which buy power from Carolina Power and Light Company have not been because their EMC's contract with CP&L didn't permit such a charge. However, CP&L has filed for emergency relief before the Federal Power Commission (FPC) in order to add the fuel charge. The EMCs have protested it and have taken the position that the present rate should be enforced. But even if this rate stands, it is scheduled to expire in January, 1975, and CP&L has already filed for an increase in the regular rates plus a fuel charge. It will be up to the FPC to make a determination.

- Since the EMCs are passing the fuel charge on to their consumer-members, do they recover all the fuel charge costs they must pay to the power companies?

Most of it but not all. There is some slippage. All EMCs operate with about an 8 or 10 per cent "line loss," which means they buy about this much power in excess of what they actually meter and sell. It's caused from the fact that it takes a certain amount of power to excite the trans-



Robert N. Cleveland

formers and energize the system. And there's some loss of power when tree limbs are on the lines. Most cooperatives are absorbing the cost of this "line loss" in their regular rates. And they're paying the fuel charge on this "line loss" — they're not trying to add that on to the consumer's electric bills.

- How is the fuel charge actually computed each month?

The power companies' accountants determine exactly how much fossil fuel was used to produce each kilowatt of electricity. They determine the cost per million British Thermal Units (BTUs), whether the fuel is coal or oil. Their regular rate structure covers this cost until it goes above 50 cents per million BTUs. Any cost incurred above this amount is passed on to their customers in the form of a fuel charge. The regulations of the FPC and the State Utility Commission require the power companies to give their customers a credit if the cost drops below 50 cents per million BTUs, but as a practical matter we'll probably never see that happen. The fuel charge is computed each month on the fuel for the previous month, so there is a lag in the process because of the time involved in calculating the figures.

- Who polices this process to guard against overcharges?

The FPC regulates this and serves as a watchdog. The FPC and the power companies both use the same accounting system so there really isn't much opportunity for the power companies to fiddle with the charge in any way. In addition, we have consulting engineers who check the fuel charges for us to make sure they are correct and figured properly.

- Is the fuel charge assessed on all wholesale power purchased by rural electric cooperatives in North Carolina?

No, only on the power generated from fossil fuels. Hydroelectric power we buy, which amounts to about 1 per cent of our total power.

cent of the total power that comes to the EMCs in this state, is not subject to a fuel charge. We buy this hydro power from the South Eastern Power Administration of the U.S. Department of the Interior. As you can see, it's just a small part of the total and doesn't help that much in the overall power picture. The same thing is true of nuclear power. The power companies cannot charge a fuel charge on nuclear power. It has to be power derived from fossil fuels, either oil or coal. So there is a very real cost advantage involved in developing more sources for hydro-electric energy in this country — and there are still a lot of opportunities for developing these. This cost advantage also applies to the trend toward using more nuclear power, which I think has been overly criticized as a hazard. There are about 50 nuclear plants in the country — some of which have been operating for nearly 30 years — and yet there has never been a single death caused from nuclear radiation exposure in one of these nuclear power plants.

• **When did the power companies begin applying the fuel charge and why?**

The practice was begun about a year ago primarily because of the increased price of coal, which is used in many generating plants. In fact, most of the power in this part of the country is produced in fossil fuel plants, which use either coal or oil. Oil once had a much higher cost per million BTUs than coal, but coal is now rapidly reaching the same high level. Historically, coal has stayed at pretty much the same price for many years. As a result, the power companies were able to estimate accurately what the cost of coal would be at a given point in the future. Now they can't do that because they don't know how much they'll have to pay for their next carload of coal.

• **What pressures forced the price of coal up?**

Inflation, the oil shortage and the increasing cost of operating mines under current environmental regulations. Inflation, of course, has affected nearly everything and coal

is no exception. The oil shortages increased the demand for coal. We've got a lot of people and industries competing for the same ton of coal and that has caused the price to go up. Meanwhile, the pressures at the mines have been terrific. Since I'm originally from Kentucky, I can speak with some knowledge of what goes on in the coal areas. The situation has changed drastically there. It used to be that anyone with a couple of trucks and a bulldozer could become a coal operator — just go off and strip the land, open up a pit and start taking the coal out. Now the strip mining authorities have demanded that certain things be done in those coal mines to prevent abuses to the land. As a result, the small operator has been forced out of business. So most of the coal operations now are million-dollar businesses. They have to spend a lot of money to make any profit at all and meet the requirement of the strip mining regulations. Meanwhile, the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) has come along to require a long list of rules for mine safety. This has been necessary, but it has also been expensive.

Another major problem is the environmental control regulations on the burning of coal. They're so stringent now that people who've been in the coal business are hesitant to make investments in new coal mines. They're afraid they won't be able to sell the product five or ten years from now. They can't recover an investment of millions of dollars in just three or four years — it takes 20 or 30 years. So this is causing a shortage of available coal, although there is no real shortage of coal in this country. We've got a known supply which could last 300 or 400 years, but there is a problem involved in getting it out of the ground and into use.

• **How did these pressures on production of coal ultimately bring on implementation of the fuel charge?**

It was a very gradual thing. Most generating plants have a 60- or 90-day supply of coal on hand. This is a normal

(continued on page 20)

How The Fuel Charge Works

To illustrate how the fuel charge works, *Carolina Country* borrowed a sample bill from "Hali-Facts," a monthly consumer newsletter published by Halifax Electric Membership Corporation.

It shows Halifax EMC as billing Mr. John Doe of Co-Opville for 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity. Using their established rates for this type of customer, the EMC has charged Mr. Doe \$23.85 (Item No. 1) for the 1,000 kwh.

Halifax paid a fuel charge of \$.0647, or nearly two-thirds of a cent per kwh, for all power purchased during the period covered by Mr. Doe's bill. Computing the 1,000 kwh used in Mr. Doe's home by the .00647 produces a total fuel charge of \$.647 (Item No. 2).

The bill also assesses Mr. Doe the standard \$3 for service for one security light (Item No. 3) and unpaid

balance of \$10 (Item No. 4), giving him a total bill of \$43.32 (Item No. 5).

HALIFAX ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION Enfield, N. C. 27823				ENTER HERE DATE RECEIVED	
ELECTRIC SERVICE BILL RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED				MEMBER'S NAME	
DATE		★ ESTIMATED BILL		MEMBER'S ADDRESS	
MO	DAY	YEAR	NAME		
08	10	41	JOHN DOE		
METER READING	PREV. READING	DIFFERENCE	RATE PER KWH	AMOUNT DUE	
9000	8000	1000	23.85	23.85	(1)
FUEL CHG			6.47	6.47	(2)
SECURITY LIGHT			3.00	3.00	(3)
MEMBER'S DUES			10.00	10.00	(4)
TOTAL			43.32	43.32	(5)
PAY THIS AMOUNT			AMOUNT DUE		
06 2507 2508 10			43.32		
<small> PAYMENTS RECEIVED AT: _____ KEEP THIS PART FOR YOUR RECORD ADJUSTMENTS: _____ PRESENT THIS LABEL WHEN MAKING PAYMENT </small>					

How Johnston County Got

If it hadn't been for REA and the organizers of electric cooperatives, many rural North Carolinians would have had to wait a lot longer to have electricity. Before REA, power companies had little interest in extending service beyond main roads. But they quickly moved to take territory when they realized farmers were going to provide service for themselves. One of North Carolina's ablest editors, T.J. Lassiter of *The Smithfield Herald*, recalls how it was in Johnston County. His article, reprinted from his newspaper, was cited at a writers' conference in Raleigh as an outstanding example of how a feature story should be written.

No news story that I covered for the Herald in the 1930s excited the people of Johnston County more than the story of a clash between "private power" and "public power." It was told in many installments, from its beginning in the summer of 1935 to its epilogue in mid-winter 1938.

The local issue pitted a private utility against a farmer-controlled cooperative backed by the Federal Government. The antagonists fought over rights to provide rural electrification in the country.

Nationally, "private enterprise" was resisting what it called "socialism." Johnston County became a battleground in a war waged by private power against government entry into the business of extending the benefits of electricity.

In looking back, I see in that conflict evidence of the distrust of "big business" that permeated the political atmosphere of agrarian Johnston County in the Thirties.

By 1950 no county in North Carolina had more miles of rural electric lines than Johnston. This county's rural electrification was provided by Carolina Power and Light Company. And even Johnstonians who had advocated "public power" in the 1930s acknowledged later that the private power company had "done a good job" in extending electric lines to every rural community in the county.

But Carolina Power and Light, controlled from New York in the Thirties by a holding company (Electric Bond and Share Company), had not initiated the movement that brought full-scale

rural electrification to Johnston County. CP&L was prodded by formation of a Johnston County rural electric cooperative encouraged by President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal administration.

President Roosevelt saw rural electrification as a means of "closing the gap" between rural and urban living standards. In 1934 Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes, carrying out wishes of FDR, proposed rural electrification legislation for adoption by the 1935 North Carolina General Assembly. The General Assembly rejected the proposal from Washington, but adopted legislation of its own creating the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority and providing for organization of electric membership corporations (cooperatives) in the state. The state REA was to encourage cooperatives, private utilities, and municipalities to build power lines in rural communities.

Suspicious of corporate influence in state government, President Roosevelt didn't rely on states to develop rural electrification. In 1935 he created the federal Rural Electrification Administration by executive order. The federal REA was authorized to lend money to cooperatives for construction of rural lines.

In the middle Thirties private power companies throughout America were reluctant to build rural electric lines except in profitable territory where economic risk would be virtually nil — thickly populated rural communities. Private power's policy seemed certain to leave many farm families "in the dark" — families living in remote areas, places away from clusters of rural residences.

To the New Dealers in Washington and also to Populist-minded champions of agriculture in North Carolina, the rural electric cooperative seemed to be the answer to the problem of serving families not fortunate enough to live along main roads where there were many houses.

My introduction to the rural electrification movement came in June 1935.

I was invited to cover a meeting at Courthouse on June 10. Some men and women from all parts of Johnston County assembled at Courthouse to hear D.S. Weaver, cultural engineer at North Carolina State College, explain the Electric Membership Corporation Act passed by the 1935 Legislature. It was an enthusiastic meeting that resulted in creation of a committee instructed to explore ways and means of obtaining rural power lines for Johnston County.

J.W. Woodard of Glendale was elected chairman of the committee. A.F. Holt Jr. of Princeton became secretary. Other members were Rev. A.T. Lassiter of Cleveland Township, Bernard Hudson of Lenoir Township, Howard E. Mitchell of Wilson's Mills, and Chester Barlow of Elevation Township.

Later in 1935 a tri-county cooperative was established to develop electrification in Johnston, Wake, and Franklin counties. That co-op applied for a loan from the federal REA.

By early spring in 1936, Washington had not acted on the tri-county loan request. Johnston County farmers were restless. They saw no indication that Carolina Power and Light would move rapidly to build rural lines in Johnston County, nor any indication that CP&L would serve a large territory. Moreover, they were satisfied with prospects of getting power through the tri-county co-op.

In March 1936, the state REA conducted a survey of prospective rural power users in Johnston County. The survey showed great interest in electrification among Johnston families. The tri-county project called for only 155 miles of lines and would serve 836 customers. Johnston farm leaders wanted a much larger project.

An electric membership corporation for Johnston County only was established in the spring of 1936 and applied for a \$310,000 federal loan. Construction of 295 miles of rural lines was contemplated. The cooperative would buy electricity with

Rural Electrification

By T. J. L.

sale from Carolina Power and Light and distribute it among farm families at nonprofit rates.

The Johnston County co-op's board of directors included J.W. Woodard (chairman), A.F. Holt Jr. (secretary), Dr. Wade H. Atkinson of Washington, D.C. and O'Neals Township, Ira C. Whitley of Wilson's Mills, A.J. Whitley Jr. of Smithfield, Snead Sanders of Bentonville and Chester Barbour of Elevation.

Rural electrification had no supporter more enthusiastic than Dr. Atkinson. A successful physician in Washington, he never lost touch with his home county of Johnston. And his social conscience showed in more ways than one. He conducted free health clinics for the people of O'Neals Township where he owned farm land. And he performed without charge many a tonsil and adenoid operation in Northern Johnston. He was full of the New Deal spirit, and he maintained a lasting faith in the electric membership corporation's capacity to provide rural power for Johnston County with federal REA aid. When conflict arose between the private power company and the farmer-controlled co-op, he was a fiery and unyielding fighter on the side of "the people" against "corporate interest." He remains one of the most memorable Johnston County personalities I ever knew.

Dr. Atkinson and his associates on the co-op's board of directors were excited when Washington in late May 1936 gave its promise that the Johnston County REA loan application would be approved. The directors were informed that \$80,000 would be provided for the first phase of the project. The first phase called for construction of 78 miles of rural lines. The prospect for rural electrification in Johnston County looked bright.

But the co-op was soon to encounter trouble. Carolina Power and Light began working up rural power projects in the county, sending representatives

through the countryside to sign up prospective users of electricity. A bitter struggle for "territory" ensued. CP&L's leadership was strongly opposed to public power. It championed private enterprise and detested "socialized power." The company saw a threat to its philosophy in Johnston County.

Carolina Power and Light's activity in Johnston County infuriated directors of the rural electric co-op. They were convinced that the power company was a Johnny-come-lately trying to break the back of the co-op by promising quick service to "the cream" of customer potential. That meant leaving "skimmed milk" to the co-op, which needed a good deal of the fat to survive.

The co-op's directors also suspected that Dudley Bagley, head of the state REA, was encouraging Carolina Power and Light to undermine the co-op's project. It was a suspicion deeply resented by Bagley, who insisted his objective was to obtain more rural power lines, no matter who provided them. He had many friends who were willing to vouch for his honesty.

In the summer of 1936, a news story in The Raleigh Times sent the anger of the co-op directors to boiling point. The directors felt the news story created an impression that Washington had forsaken the Johnston County co-op. The story noted that only \$80,000 for 78 miles of lines had been promised by the federal REA. The co-op's directors read into the story a hint that no more money would be forthcoming from Washington for rural electrification in Johnston.

The co-op directors let me know they suspected Bagley had "planted" the story carried by the Raleigh paper. They emphasized they had been assured by Washington that the full \$310,000 for 295 miles would be forthcoming.

The co-op directors responded to the Raleigh Times story by writing Bagley a strongly worded letter. In it, they

"wondered" whether the head of the state REA was "serving" the power company.

The letter to Bagley was released to the press. The Smithfield Herald gave it prominent display on its front page.

Dudley Bagley, a likeable man who had come to Raleigh from an agricultural background in Northeastern North Carolina, was furious when he received the letter.

In Smithfield one day, he came into the Herald office and asked: "Did you publish that letter I got from the co-op?" We told him we did.

"You'll be hearing from me and my lawyer," he exclaimed, leaving the Herald office in a hurry.

We did hear from Bagley and his lawyer, Carroll Weathers of Raleigh, later to become dean of the Wake Forest Law School. They came to the Herald office together. Weathers did most of the talking. He was polite. He prefaced his conversation by saying some kind things about my lawyer brother who practiced in Raleigh. Then he came to the point. "That letter you published and your story along with it contained serious charges against Mr. Bagley," he said.

Bagley and Weathers did not ask for a retraction of the story. What they wanted was publication of Bagley's reply to the co-op directors - Bagley's denial that he was serving the private utility or giving it preference over the co-op in the controversy over who would provide rural electric lines in Johnston County. They requested publication of Bagley's reply in the same prominent front-page position given to the co-op's charges.

It was a fair request. In keeping with the Herald's policy to give voice to all sides of disputes, we agreed to comply.

"Your headline didn't reflect accurately what was in the letter to Mr. Bagley," Weathers said.

While I pondered my lesson in journalism from a lawyer who later was to run a law school, the battle

(continued on page 25)

A Ballad of Busy Hands

By Owen Bishop

Mrs. Crawford Bryan of Rt. 4, Statesville, is a 78-year-old human dynamo who wouldn't dream of sitting back in her old rocking chair — unless she has some handicraft project in progress to keep her hands busy while she rocks.

"I can't just rest," she said. "I relax at work. When I've got some project a-going, I really get relaxation out of it."

Mrs. Bryan believes rest doesn't necessarily require cessation from work.

And she puts that belief into daily practice: she paints, she sews, she refinishes furniture. She makes brooms, she bottoms chairs, she collects rocks. She teaches Sunday School, she decoupages, she quilts.

The list could go on and on.

Mrs. Bryan's active hands have left many marks throughout the farm house which has been the Bryan home for more than 20 years:

Here's a picture she painted above an old chest she refinished. There's a pantry full of shelves which are bowed from the weight of the garden vegetables she's canned.

Carolina Country Life Styles

On this wall is a plaque displaying the arrowheads she's collected. Next to that chair is a handsome sewing box she made, using wood from an old church pew and a cheesebox. And there's an antique lounge she reupholstered.

Many of Mrs. Bryan's projects could have come straight from the latest manual for the ecology-conscious since recycling was a way of life for her long before it became the vogue:

She decoupaged that sewing box with brightly-colored leaves clipped from a paper tablecloth. She makes buttons for her handsewn coats from

used round drapery hooks.

She cut pieces from tin cans to make a wall decoration in the form of a flower. And she makes other decorations by cutting up plastic lids from shortening cans, mixing the pieces with bits of colored glass, arranging them in a pattern to her liking and then melting them together in the oven.

On those rare occasions when Mrs. Bryan's hands are still, they're usually holding a book. She enjoys reading nonfiction, preferably books on archeology or Indian lore.

"I've gotten through some mighty hard books on archeology that hundreds of words in them I'd never be able to pronounce."

Mr. Bryan, 85, has been every bit as active as his wife through the years but he's beginning to slow down a little after a lifetime of farm work. But he still keeps busy taking care of the farm and their 16 head of cattle. And he spends a lot of time on their large garden during the summer.

As a "semi-retired" farmer, he is now becoming more involved in Mrs. Bryan's projects, helping her make tufted bedspreads, bottom chairs, and refinish furniture.

The Bryans had been a dairy farming family until a few years ago when they began raising beef cattle. However, they still keep a cow for milk and Mrs. Bryan does the milking herself.

"We only milk her once a day and let the calf have it the rest of the time," he said.

Mr. and Mrs. Bryan both maintain busy schedules, despite their nominal status as "senior citizens." Yet they always find time for the activities of their beloved Society Baptist Church.

"We go to church three times a week unless they have something extra and then we go more than that," Mrs. Bryan said.

The couple has known a lifetime of hard work, having spent all of their 40 years of marriage on a farm.

"We've never lived anywhere else and I wouldn't want to!" Mrs. Bryan declared.

They began farming in the rocky countryside of their native Madison County, near Marshall. That remained



Mr. and Mrs. Bryan examine rocks from her collection.

their home while they brought up three children — two daughters and a son.

They moved to Iredell County in 1950, settling about 15 miles outside Statesville.

"We had lived in Madison County all our lives," Mrs. Bryan recalled. "But we couldn't buy land around us to expand."

They chose Iredell County because their son Robert and Mrs. Bryan's brother had both been impressed with the area as a good location for dairy farming.

When they moved, they brought the family of one of their daughters, Mrs. Henry Lewis, with them and divided the 200-acre farm into two operations. Robert had already settled in the Raleigh area and their other daughter, Mrs. Ralph Ramsey, remained in Madison County with her family.

Although the move involved breaking many lifelong ties with the Marshall area, the Bryans say they've never regretted it.

"We still enjoy going back to see the people, but we've never wanted to move back," Mr. Bryan added.

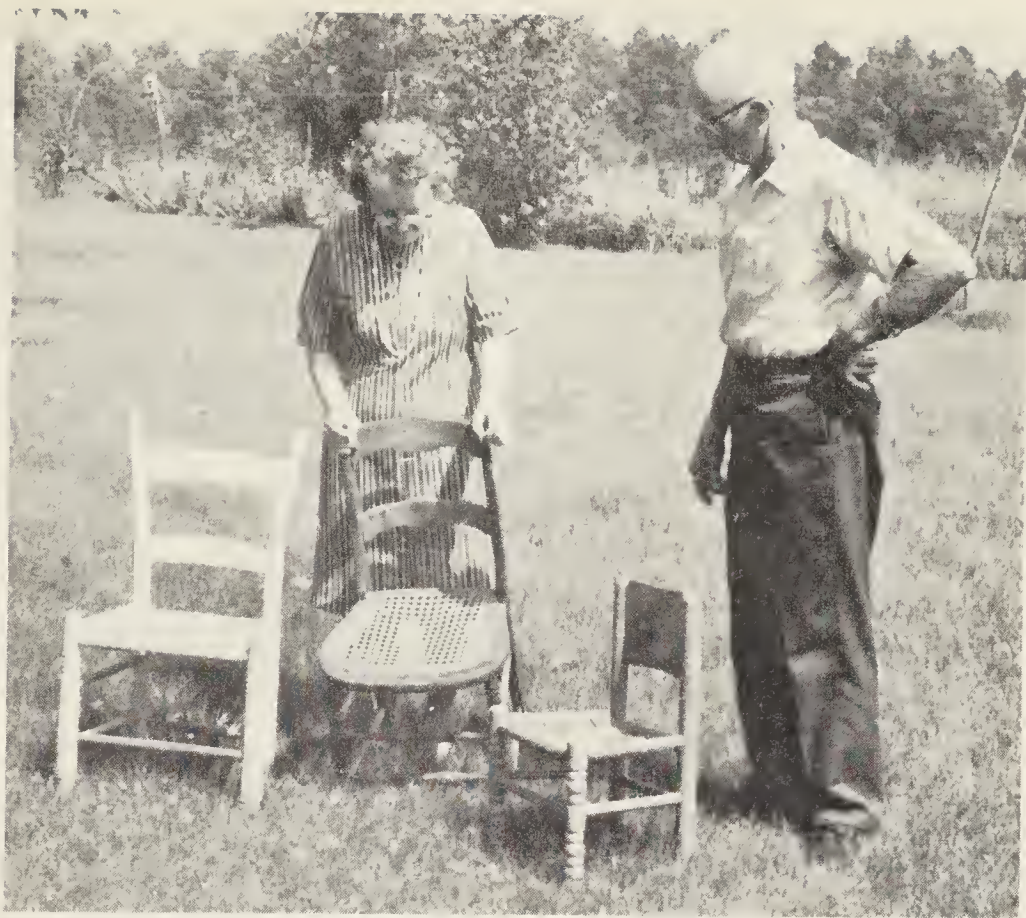
So the Bryan clan is spread across North Carolina and now includes 13 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. But distances don't interfere with family gatherings on special occasions and around holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas.

"When we celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary last year, the whole family was here except for two grandchildren," Mrs. Bryan pointed out.

The Bryans, who are now served by Crescent Electric Membership Corporation, were among the first Madison County farm families to sign up for electric power when French Broad EMC was organized. They visited many of their neighbors, urging them to follow suit.

"You know when we started out up there a lot of people just made fun of us," Mrs. Bryan said. "Our neighbors said it couldn't be done — that there weren't enough people in Madison County that would take lights to begin even thinking about it."

But those rural people did far more than think about it. They organized the EMC and received a \$125,000 R.A. loan to build 125 miles of



The Bryans with chairs they've bottomed.

transmission lines. When the system became operational, in June, 1940, it served 600 families.

Mrs. Bryan served as Treasurer of French Broad EMC's first Board of Directors. When she resigned that post in August, 1946, the EMC was serving 3,644 members.

She's the only woman ever to have served on the French Broad board.

"They told me they had to have a woman — said there was a regulation on it. I don't know whether there was or not. They might have just told me that. Anyway, they got me on the board."

When their power was first turned on, the Bryans were fully prepared for

it. They'd had electric lights installed in their home and they'd bought a small radio so they could keep up with what was going on outside their isolated community. Later, they bought a refrigerator and iron and a washing machine.

They continued to use the little radio until about a year ago, when it succumbed to the ravages of time.

Today, the Bryans enjoy labor-saving devices which they might never have dreamed of using that day when the lights first burned in their Madison County farm house.

But their laboring continues unabated, for work has always been the central focus on their life style. Now, however, they can spend more time on the labors which bring them the most pleasure.

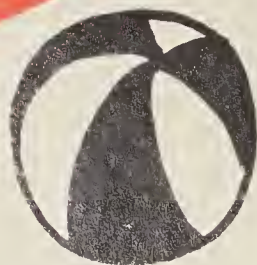
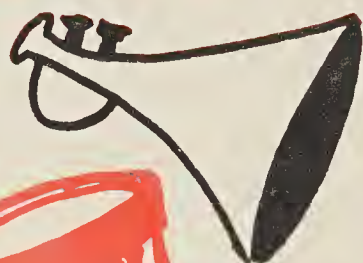
"People should *live* everyday — get some pleasure out of every day," Mrs. Bryan said, summing the couple's attitude towards life. "They shouldn't put off *living* until tomorrow."

"We know so many people who work so hard they don't have time for anything except making money. They think they'll get all that money made and they'll *live* tomorrow. Well, it may not work out that way."



Two brooms which Mrs. Bryan made.

A TOY SHOULD BE A JOY



No matter how many years go by, no one ever really forgets the excitement and joy of gathering around the tree Christmas morning to see what Santa has brought.

But the thrill can easily turn to disappointment, even tragedy for both child and parent, if the toys aren't fun, break easily or cause injury.

It's hard to come by statistics that show how many times a toy and a child have been mismatched. But every parent at one time or another has heaved a sigh or shrugged shoulders over the sight of discarded, unused or broken toys.

On the other hand, figures are available for the number of injuries caused by toys. "Estimates run to about 700,000 toy-related injuries each year," according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The commission, which operates the National Electronics Injury Surveillance System, receives daily data from 119 hospital emergency rooms nationwide and estimated that "from July 1, 1972 to June 30, 1973, 132,000 persons sought emergency room treatment for injuries associated with toys." This does not even begin to take into account all the injuries treated in a doctor's office or at home, or injuries caused by bicycles and tricycles.

"A poorly designed toy — or a toy in the hands of a child too young to handle it — can cause permanent injury or death," warn the commission.

Since the Child Protection and Toy Safety Act amendments went into effect in 1970, more than 1,500 toys have been banned — which means it is illegal to sell them in the United States. In general, these are toys and

other articles intended for use by infants and young children.

Among them are:

- toy rattles containing wire points, or loose small objects that could cause cuts, punctures or other injury;

- any toy with noisemaking parts that could be removed by the child and swallowed or cause other injury;

- any doll, stuffed animal or similar toy which could cause injury;

- lawn darts and other sharp pointed toys intended for outdoor use that could cause puncture wounds;

- caps intended for use with toy guns which produce loud noise;

- baby bouncers and similar articles that support very young children while sitting, walking, bouncing, etc., which could cause injury such as pinching, cutting, or bruising, etc.;

- toys known as "clacker balls" which could break off and cause injury.

"Toys should be selected with care but the need for safety does not end at the toy store. Almost any toy can be dangerous and adults have a responsibility to supervise play, especially with small children," say Commission spokesmen.

"One simple way to help children is to show them how to correctly use the toys. Just because toys don't always play fair, doesn't mean parents shouldn't!"

The Consumer Product Safety Commission also encourages parents to look for warning labels on toys such as "Not Recommended for Children Under 3 Years of Age;" and to check children's toys periodically to be sure they have not developed potential hazards such as jagged, broken edges or loose small parts.

But, choosing safe toys is only the beginning.

Selecting an entertaining, stimulating toy — one a child will enjoy and learn from — can be even more of a challenge!

Children's play is more than just amusement. It's their way of exploring the world and finding out what makes things tick. Through play, children learn how to function effectively and creatively. They use toys to carry out their own ideas, solve problems, and enjoy being in the world. Child development authorities advise parents or any adult for that matter, to choose toys that could give the child a large and varied range of play experiences.

For infants up to one year, proper gifts are playthings to chew, squeeze or drop. They should be washable, unbreakable and non-flammable — remember just about everything goes into the mouth at this age.

One- to two-year olds love to investigate. Pick toys that the child can take apart and reassemble, like peg-boards and blocks. Children should be able to handle and manipulate toys, not just have them to wind up and watch.

Two and three is the experimenting age. Toddlers may enjoy nonpoisonous fingerpaint, modeling dough or cars and wagons they can push.

Between the ages of three and four, children are ready to pretend they're adults. Give them small brooms, carpet sweepers, miniature suitcases, tea sets and similar toys. This is the time that toys will have to withstand vigorous play.

From four to six, children continue to imitate adults. They enjoy blackboards, simple construction toys, small trains and dolls. When a child reaches six, you can introduce more complicated playthings like sewing materials or carpenter's benches.

At about eight, they're ready for bicycles, electric trains, musical instruments and gym equipment.

Play that is imaginative, imitative and dramatic is great fun for children and has a highly desirable effect on growth. What's essential is that the toy do what it is suppose to do. A toy shovel that only vaguely resembles a team shovel but can really dig is far more to a boy than an intricate scale model that looks the part but can't do the job.

It's the toy's play value to the child that's most important. The average youngster "couldn't care less" about finicky detail. He won't get much fun, either, from a toy that's too highly automated. What can a child do with a robot that walks across the room and picks up an object — except watch, which loses its charm after a time or two.

To have continuing play value, a toy must challenge a child and offer built-in variety — many possibilities he can imagine into many play situations. In this way it can "grow up" with the child.

Another consideration for parents is choosing group toys. Shared or social play helps children learn to get along with each other and, ultimately, with the world at large. In such joint activities they begin to understand fair play and to gain a sense of the exciting challenge of healthy competition. Sports equipment fits this description, as do intriguing board games such as checkers, chess, quiz and word games.

Another factor to consider when selecting toys is price. The most expensive toys are not always the best or the most appealing to a child. If there is time, you might consider making toys for the children on your list.

Ask yourself these questions when the day arrives and you go shopping for the small fry on your list this Christmas:

Is the toy well made? And durable?

Is it physically safe, free from toxic and flammable materials or is it UL approved? Toys that require constant parental supervision are generally poor choices — not much fun for the child and too much of a time taker for the parent.

Can the toy be easily manipulated and enjoyed right now? A toy a child has to grow up to gives him no happiness, only a sense of inadequacy and it could be dangerous if he doesn't know how to play with it correctly.

Is it unstructured enough that the child may use his own imagination while playing with it?

Will it teach him new skills when the child is ready to learn them?

Will it appeal to the particular child? If the child doesn't like the toy, you've wasted your money. Be sensitive to his changing needs, likes and dislikes.



DUE CREDIT

The "Carolina Homemaker" article in the October issue, which outlined what to look for in buying a previously-owned home, was based on information provided by Mrs. Gladys Bryant, a housing specialist with the NCSU Agricultural Extension Service.

Mrs. Bryant, who researched and wrote an Extension Service brochure on buying previously owned homes, was most cooperative in assisting with the development of the article. We regret that she was given no credit for his assistance. Our apologies to Mrs. Bryant.

For copies of her brochure, write to Housing and House Furnishings Department, Agricultural Extension Service, NCSU, Raleigh, N.C. 27607.

ABOUT THE HOUSE

How to Save On Home Heating Costs

In an era in which the homeowner is increasingly becoming a do-it-yourselfer, here are a few tips on the do-it-yourself way to cut your electric heating bills:

• **Don't play with the thermostat.** Find a comfortable setting and leave it there. Constant changing of the setting causes unnecessary wear and tear on your heating and cooling equipment and increases use of energy. With convection or radiant heating systems (electric baseboard or ceiling cable), a setting of 70 degrees or lower is usually comfortable; forced air systems may require a slightly higher setting.

• **You raise your heating costs.** about three per cent for every degree you raise the thermostat above normal setting. Setting it higher will make a room heat any faster.

• **Turning the thermostat to a lower setting at night** may or may not represent an overall saving in your heating bill, depending on how well insulated your home is and how cold the outdoor night temperature is. The colder the outdoor weather, the more energy is needed to reheat your home the next morning. And this can offset nighttime savings. Ask your heating contractor or your electric supplier.

• **If you take a winter vacation** plan to be away from home for several days, it is wise to lower the thermostat six or seven degrees before you leave.

• **At least once a month, check filters** in your furnace, heat pump or air conditioner. If they're dirty, your system has to work harder to produce the comfort you need. Keeping your filters clean will also keep the air in your home cleaner and can save on unnecessary maintenance and service calls.

If you have any helpful hints or special information that you would like to share with our readers, send them to: About the House, Carolina Country, P.O. Box 16, Raleigh, N.C. 27602.

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Ripple Crochet Book	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1.00	



KITCHEN CORNER

HOLIDAY CAKE

For the upcoming holiday season you'll definitely want to try this delicious Caramel Nut Pound Cake. It is from the recipe files of Mrs. Bertha Norton of Clinton. This treat is sure to be a hit with all those visiting friends and relatives during the coming months.

Mrs. Norton and her husband, members of South River Electric Membership corporation, have worked with the Sampson County Sheriff's Department for eight years. They enjoy their work as matron and jailer.

The Nortons will soon celebrate their Golden Wedding anniversary. They have four married sons, seven grandchildren and one great-grand-child. Sounds like Mrs. Norton will be doing quite a bit of cooking herself this holiday season!

If you have a favorite recipe that you would like to share through this column, send it to: Brenda Sargent, Kitchen Corner, P.O. Box 1699, Raleigh, N.C. 27602. Tell us something about the recipe and any helpful tips you have discovered in preparing it, your family and the name of the EMC that serves you. We pay \$2 for the recipe chosen monthly for this column.

CAROLINA COUNTRY RECIPE

Caramel Nut Pound Cake

Submitted by Mrs. Bertha Norton, 400 Nance St., Clinton, N.C.

1 cup butter
1 cup shortening (Crisco)
1 box light brown sugar
1 cup granulated sugar
4 eggs
1 tbs. vanilla
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. baking powder
4 cups sifted flour (Swan Down)
1 cup sweet milk
1 cup finely chopped nuts (Black Walnut)

Cream butter, shortening and brown sugar thoroughly. Gradually add granulated sugar. Continue creaming. Add eggs one at a time, beating thoroughly after each addition. Sift baking powder and salt with flour; add alternately with milk, beginning and ending with flour. Add vanilla, then nuts, and blend well. Turn batter into a well-greased and floured 10-inch tube pan and bake at 325 degrees for 90 minutes or until cake tests done. Cool in pan 15 minutes before turning out of pan.



FASHION FAVORITES



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SIZES 10, 20



9127
SIZES 8 18



9448
WAIST 24 32



9065 2 8

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Pattern No. 9127 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, and 18.

Pattern No. 9065 is cut in girls' sizes 2, 4, 6, and 8.

Send \$1.00 in cash (no stamps) for each pattern to: CAROLINA COUNTRY, Box 42, Old Chelsea Station, New York, N.Y. 10011. Add 25¢ for first-class mail and special handling. Be sure to include your full address, zip code and pattern size.

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"How can we help to establish love and peace between people of different races?"

"We should think of other people just like we think of ourselves. God created all people equal and we should disregard the color of each other's skin."

Kathy Gentle
Mocksville

Kathy is 13 and attends Mocksville Middle School. She enjoys riding bikes and cooking. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harley Chaffin, are served by Crescent EMC.

"I believe it would help if everyone tried to understand the views and feelings of those around them. We must look at the person's inner self rather than their color or nationality, and respect each other's rights. It is also important to look for the good things in a person, rather than the bad."

Danny Ray Draughn
Ararat

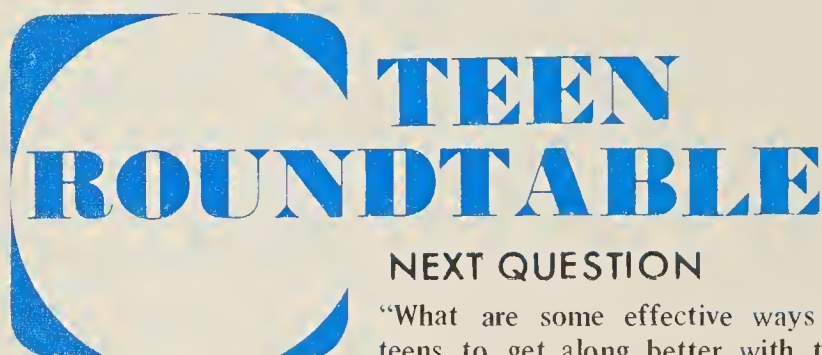
Danny is in the seventh grade at Copeland Elementary

School. This active 13-year-old enjoys fishing and swimming. He and his mother, Elizabeth Draughn, are served by Surry-Yadkin EMC.

"I feel that the only way we can establish love and peace between people of different races is through God. In the Bible it says, 'Have we not all one Father? Hath not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?' (Malachi 2:10) God made everyone equal. We should look upon others as our brothers and sisters, because God made us all his children."

Diane E.
Bear Creek

Diane is 16 and attends Chathan Central High School. She enjoys softball and writing, and is also a member of Tyson's Creek Baptist Church. Diane and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Lee (Dink) Ellis, are served by Randolph EMC.



NEXT QUESTION

"What are some effective ways for teens to get along better with their teachers?"

This question was submitted by Rosalind Hargrove of Norlina. Rosalind is 17 and enjoys reading and writing. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Almetta Hargrove, are served by Halifax EMC.

If you have a good answer, send it to THE TEEN ROUNDTABLE, Carolina Country, P.O. Box 1699, Raleigh, N.C. 27602 at once. Tell us a few facts about yourself — your age, school, hobbies, etc. Include your parents' name and the name of the electric membership corporation serving you. If your answer is published, we will send you \$5.

If you want to submit a question, send it along and for each one used the sender will get a \$5 check.

THE MOST INTERESTING TAR HEEL I KNOW

Ever heard of ole Miss Lily who, each summer, cans more vegetables from her own garden than any other 75 year old around? Or how 'bout Uncle Toby who claims he can play the jew's harp, washtub bass, and musical saw — all at the same time! Then there's Bessie, the midwife who helped bring half the kids in the county into this world!

Sound like anyone you might know? North Carolina is just full of interesting characters whose outstanding talents are never recognized. Teen Roundtable thinks it's high time these friends were shared with the rest of North Carolina. And the most likely person to tell about your brother (who is the best square-dance caller in Buncombe County) is YOU. So teenagers, go to it!

Conduct your own "interview" and then send us your story on "The Most Interesting Tar Heel I Know" (at least 300 words). Include a black and white photograph if at all possible. We'll try to print one each month and send you \$15 for each one published. Please don't stick to the character ideas mentioned here — originality is important. Feel free to write about anyone in North Carolina you know personally, but be sure to let us know why they're special and deserve the title of the most interesting Tar Heel. Include some facts about yourself, parents' name, and the EMC serving you. You may want to include something about how you went about your interview.

Send all stories to TAR HEEL, CAROLINA COUNTRY, P.O. Box 1699, Raleigh, N.C. 27602.



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Fuel Charge *(continued from Page 7)*

supply. They keep this much to assure themselves of a coal supply in the event of strikes either in the railroad industry or at the coal mines themselves. So they had this supply of fairly low-cost coal. It was only as they replaced it with higher-price coal that they realized they could no longer rely on a predictable price pattern in buying coal. The price quadrupled in a period of six months and there was no way in the world they could keep up with this price. So they've put in the fuel adjustment clause in their contracts, which permits them to charge actual fossil fuel costs. Historically, the cost of producing a kilowatt hour of electricity was about one-third fuel cost; one-third investment in the system, depreciation and interest costs; and one-third operating costs. With coal now costing four times as much, fuel costs now account for 60 or 70 per cent of the cost of producing that kilowatt hour. A year ago, the EMCs in North Carolina were probably spending 45 or 50 per cent of every dollar they collected on wholesale power. Now, they're spending 60 or 70 per cent of every dollar collected for wholesale power. And the EMCs can't control this.

- **How much of their revenues do the EMCs control?**

The boards of directors and management of the EMCs control a very small part of the money they collect. They can't control the fixed charges, like the cost of wholesale power, depreciation, and interest on the funds they've borrowed. These obligations must be met, regardless. So, the boards and management control only about 30 per cent of all funds collected and the rest must go to pay these

fixed expenses. The boards also have the responsibility to keep the cooperative in good financial condition. So they have to raise rates from time to time, with approval from the Rural Electrification Administration in Washington. They have to raise those rates to be able to pay their bills to keep their lines in good condition, and to continue giving good service to the membership.

- **Can you foresee any change in the situation which might reduce the cost of electric power in the future?**

Well, it could be that the price of coal will level off when it reaches a certain price. And if this happened, the power companies might well return to the practice of including the cost of fossil fuels in their regular rates. The shift to more nuclear power could help some, but I think we will never again see wholesale power costing less than 1 cent per kilowatt. We'll never see the cost back down to where it was, but I think they will stabilize in the next four or five years, possibly within the next two years. This nation has enjoyed the cheapest power in the world for many years. Now we've had a rude awakening with the fuel charge being imposed during this period of inflation. But we still have a rather cheap source of energy compared to many other countries. We still need to make the most effective use of the energy we have. I once heard an engineer say we are able to get 80 per cent efficiency from fuel but we only make about 5 per cent use of it after we get it. This is partly true.

• **Thank you Mr. Cleveland. We will be back to talk with you again.**

— Owen Bishop

BURNED FOSSIL FUEL COSTS (cents per million BTU)

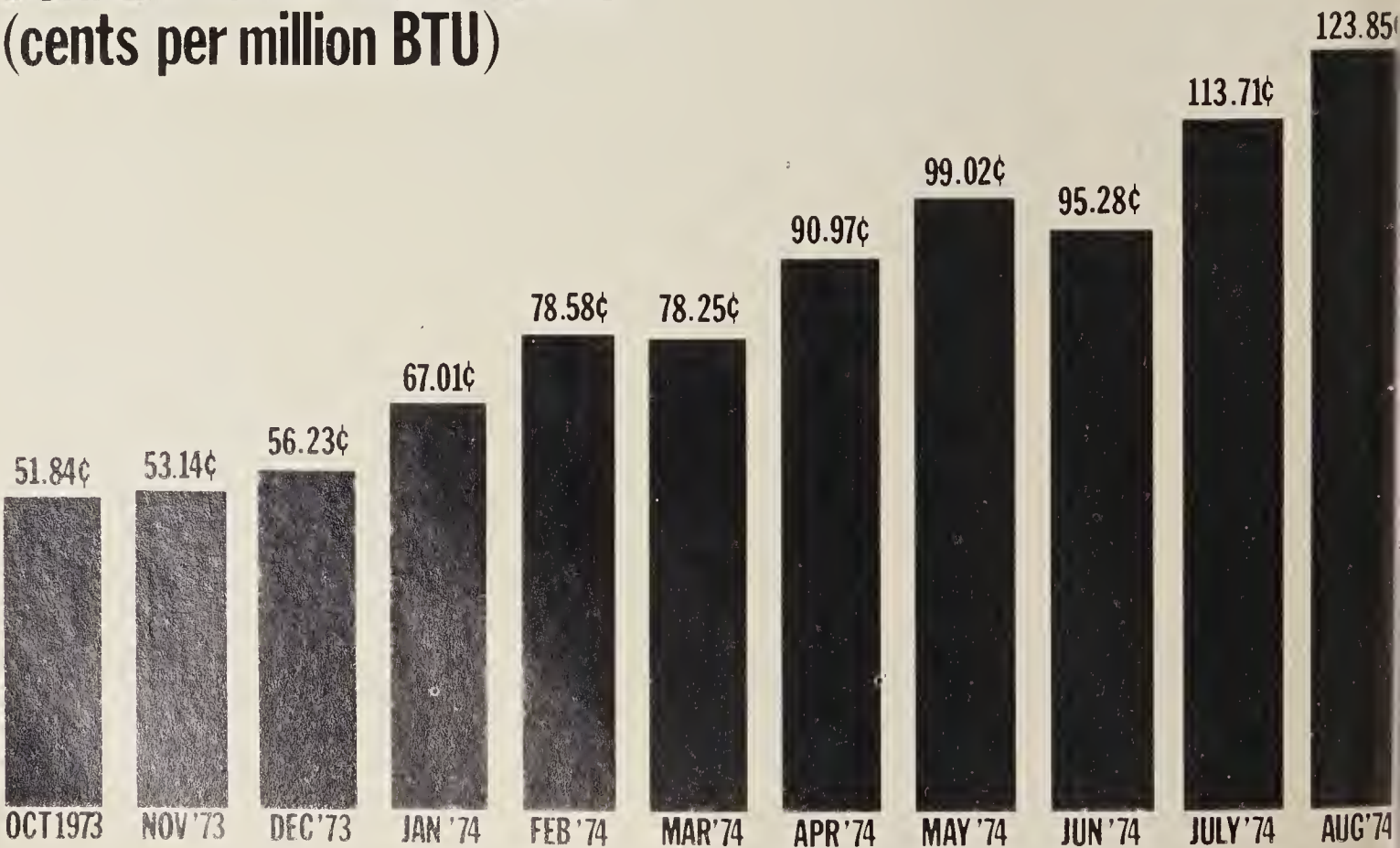


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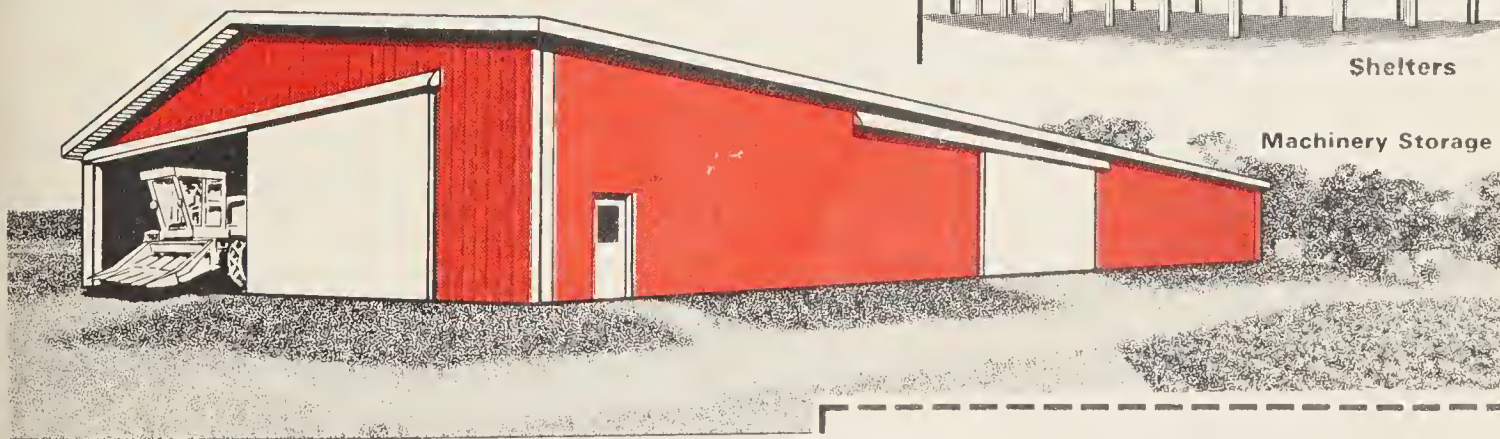
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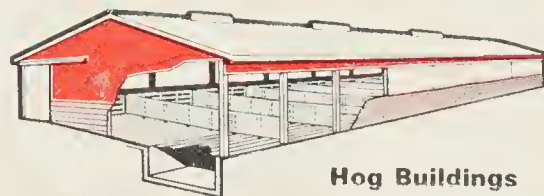
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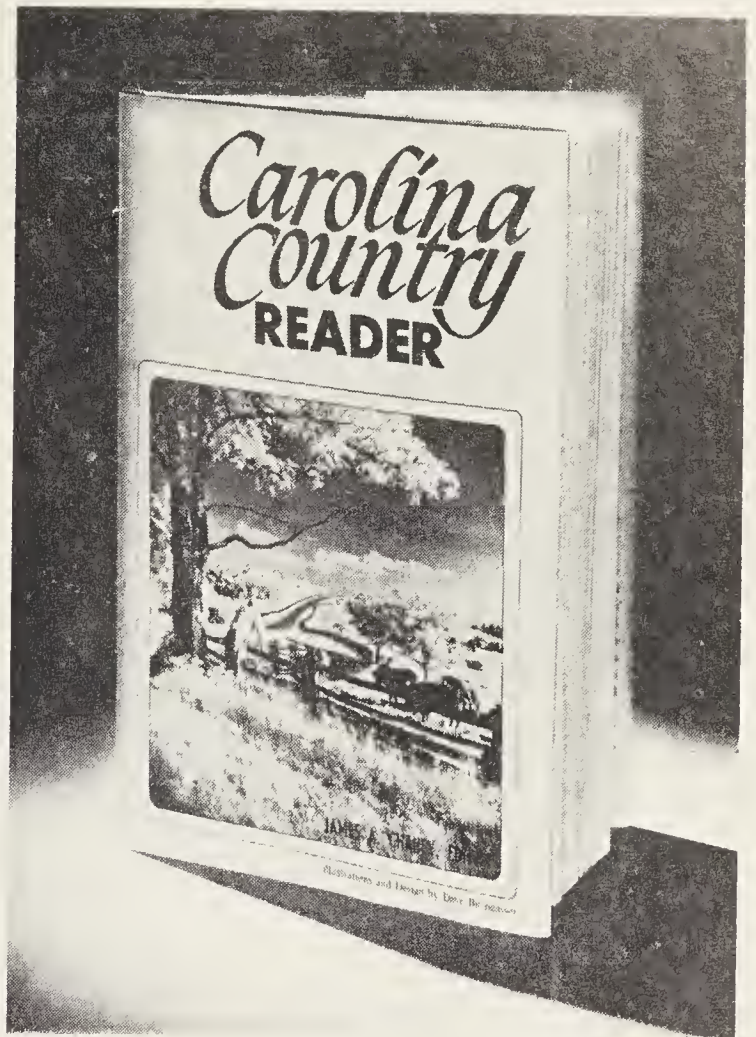
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(continued from page 9)

between the co-op and the power company over territory raged on.

By August 1936, the federal REA had granted the full \$310,000 for the Johnston County project. The co-op's directors reassured the people that the fight to save the government-backed project would continue.

But the odds were mounting against the co-op. Handwriting was even on the wall. The CP&L had been moving east. By the end of August, it had completely blocked the co-op out of the southwestern sector of the county (all area to the west of the Smithfield-Henson highway and south of the Clayton-Smithfield highway). Moreover, CP&L was making inroads elsewhere in the county.

Still the co-op was determined not to give up the fight. In October 1936, it let a contract for construction of the first 78 miles of lines included in its 155-mile project.

The week that work began on the co-op's project, however, became a turning point in the dispute. CP&L obtained a temporary order restraining the co-op from further construction of lines. The power company alleged that the co-op "was about to duplicate services" already provided by private power.

The co-op struck back. It obtained an order temporarily restraining the power company from further construction of rural lines in Johnston County. At that time, J.W. Woodard continued to serve as chairman of the co-op's board and A.F. Holt Jr. was its secretary. There were two new members of the board, however. G.T. Sott of Selma and J.L. Lee of Meadow had replaced Ira C. Whitley and Gester Barbour.

The co-op won a decision in the Superior Court, but construction of all lines was held up pending outcome of the power company's appeal to the State Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, CP&L proposed a compromise. It promised to build "all feasible lines" and to reimburse the co-op for expenses incurred in proceeding with its project. The co-op directors said, "No deal."

On June 30, 1937, the State Supreme Court upheld the co-op's right to construct electric lines. But a few days later (on July 8) the co-op's

board, in a decision that surprised many Johnstonians, voted 4-2 to abandon its project and let CP&L take over its territory. The power company had made a proposal agreeing to construct 325 miles of lines. Atkinson and Holt were the directors who voted against it.

The federal REA then stepped into the thick of the controversy. It opposed letting the co-op's agreement with the power company become effective before farmers of the county could be given a hearing.

On July 28, 1937, John M. Carmody, federal REA administrator, came to Johnston County surrounded by legal aides and advisers. He appeared at a widely advertised meeting of farmers in the Courthouse. Governor Clyde Hoey, whose sympathies lay with the power company, was invited to attend the meeting, but he declined the invitation.

At the Courthouse meeting, speakers sympathetic to the co-op were cheered loudly. When Carmody called for a show of hands indicating whether the farmers wanted the co-op to provide them electricity, all the people assembled did not respond. But 200 hands went up in favor of the co-op. Only six hands showed opposition.

In a subsequent communication, Carmody's office declared that the co-op board's agreement with the power company was illegal.

Some Johnston County farmers responded to that support from Washington by obtaining a court order in August temporarily restraining CP&L from carrying out its agreement with the co-op. But Superior Court Judge Henry A. Grady denied a permanent injunction, and the power company was free to construct rural power lines in Johnston County. The last-ditch defenders of the co-op appealed to the State Supreme Court. The high court handed down its decision on February 2, 1938. It dismissed the action to block the agreement between CP&L and the co-op.

The same week the Smithfield Herald announced that Carolina Power and Light had already strung between 350 and 400 miles of lines in rural Johnston. That accomplishment by CP&L was only a beginning. Hundreds of additional miles were to be strung. Johnston County was destined to lead the state in rural electrification.

Defenders of the power company have maintained that Johnston County would have received full rural electrification from CP&L had there been no co-op threatening its territory. But many Johnstonians through the years have remained steadfast in belief that the county became a beneficiary of FDR's New Deal that prodded overly cautious and reluctant private power to fulfill needs of the people that might have been ignored for years.

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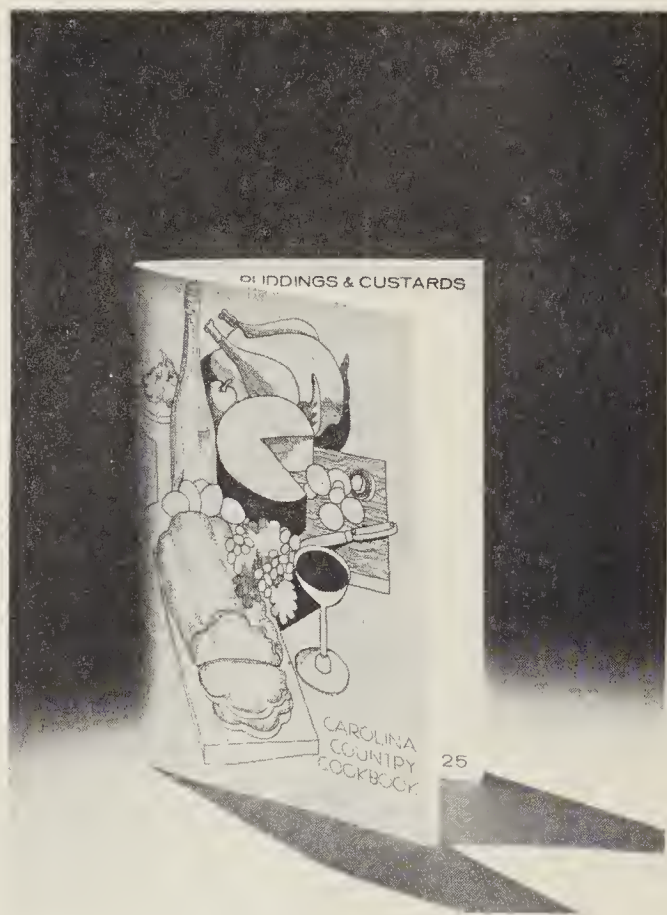
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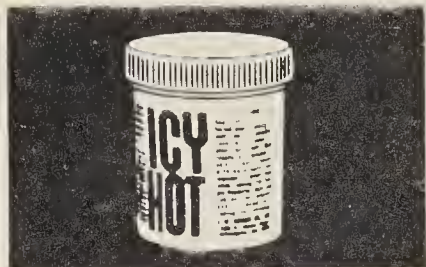
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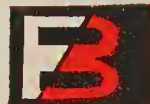


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Sometimes I think of what little I have
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Those who know not what it's like
To live without such common things
As a meal on the table,
Or shoes on the feet.
Nor do they care about those who do know —
Those who just aren't quite as able
To make it in this world as they,
Not even as well as I.
I'd rather have what little I have,
And give to those who need it most,
Than have the wealth that others have
Who use it all for boast.

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Say "Thank you" to the One Above.

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Wind, harsh and cold sweeps across the hill.
Leaves fly before it
Searching for anchor to Mother Earth.

Clouds, dark with mystery,
glide silently across the sky.
Dry blades of grass rattle
unheard across the fields.

Two yellow pumpkins lie exposed.
Great green leaves which hid them
from scorching sun
Are now shriveled and scattered.
Their stems, bone dry, are ready to snap.

A hungry field mouse peeks out of his hole,
Suddenly remembers the wild swoop
of the hawk
Which ended the life of his mother.
Hunger must wait for darkness.

Beetles and worms burrow deeper into ground
Securing themselves against the cold.

A forgotten cornstalk leaf
Waves a forlorn good-bye to summer.

Autumn has come.

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Whiteville
Winston-Salem
Yadkinville
Yanceyville

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Association
office locations
in North Carolina

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Asheboro
Asheville
Boone
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Carthage
Cherryville
Clinton
Concord
Dunn
Elizabeth City
Elizabethtown
Ellerbe
Fairmont
Fayetteville
Franklin
Goldsboro
Graham
Greensboro
Greenville
Henderson
Hendersonville
Hillsborough
Jacksonville
Kenansville
Kinston
Laurinburg
Liberty
Louisburg
Lumberton
Marshall
Monroe
Mocksville
Murphy
Nashville
New Bern
Newton
Oxford
Pilot Mountain
Plymouth
Raeford
Raleigh
Reidsville
Rocky Mount
Roxboro
Salisbury
Sanford
Shelby
Siler City
Smithfield
Snow Hill
Statesville
Swan Quarter
Trenton
Wadesboro
Warrenton
Washington
Waynesville
Weldon
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Williamston
Wilmington
Wilson
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